MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

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August 2013

August Is...

Inside This Issue:

National Water Quality Month

MFC News is published by the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

Mississippi Facts

- Nearly 50% of Mississippi is covered by forests and more than 100 species of trees are found in the state.
- There are approximately 241 different species of fish that inhabit the Mississippi River.
- During the migration season, about 326 species of birds, which make-up approximately 60% of the total birds in America, use the Mississippi River basin as their migratory flyway.
- MS was the first state in the nation to have a planned systems of junior colleges.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the ***10th of the month*** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions *(in Microsoft Word)* and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris
Mississippi Forestry Commission
822 SCR 115 S
Raleigh, MS 39153

Focus on Water: Celebrating National Water Quality Month

By Sarah Gaines Barmeyer, Great Waters Program Manager (August 2012)

Did you know that August is National Water Quality Month? It makes a lot of sense to draw attention to the importance of having clean water during a month when people are enjoying rivers, lakes, and oceans across the country.

Waterways in and around national parks provide some of the best recreational opportunities – whether you're boating on Lake Powell at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, viewing the sandstone cliffs at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, snorkeling at Biscayne National Park, or fishing the Gibbon River in Yellowstone National Park.

Unfortunately, 207 of our 397 national parks–52 percent–have waterways that are considered "impaired" under the Clean Water Act, meaning they do not meet appropriate water quality standards. The most common reasons why they fail to meet the standards include high levels of pathogens, mercury, heavy metals, nutrients, and sediment. For national parks, most of these pollutants are the result of activities happening beyond park boundaries, often from upstream or airborne contaminants.

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, monitors water quality data and keeps general information such as acres of lakes, miles of streams, and even the number of waterfalls within and adjacent to each national park. They also keep track of the health of these many bodies of water. NPS makes all of this data publicly available so you can learn more about their efforts at http://nature.nps.gov/water/. You can also delve into the details on the different kinds of waterways in and around your favorite parks, including how much of this water is degraded or impaired by looking up the details at http://nature.nps.gov/water/HIS/index.cfm.

Fortunately, identifying a waterway as impaired allows states to start more proactive pollution reduction measures, helping to reverse the damage. For example, the state of Florida is working on a plan that will store and treat water for longer periods before it flows south to Everglades National Park from Lake Okeechobee, thereby reducing the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants that enter the park from upstream agricultural areas.

NPCA works to protect and restore the waterways in and around national parks because healthy parks depend on healthy waters. As we celebrate National Water Quality Month, rest assured that as you are enjoying these late summer days on a national park waterway that NPCA is working across the country to ensure that the rivers, lakes, and oceans are in the best conditions possible.

Join us in celebrating National Water Quality Month by taking action:

- Take steps toward cleaning up waterways in your community and conserving water in your home.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2, Focus on Water: Celebrating National Water Quality Month)

- Get updates on water quality news and other issues affecting national parks, including ways you can take action to make a difference, by joining our online community at www.npca.org/join.
- Learn more about NPCA's Great Waters program, visit www.npca.org/greatwaters.

Mississippi's Surface Waters

From MDEQ's Mississippi 2012 §305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report.

Mississippi lies predominantly within the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region except for a small part of northeastern Mississippi which is part of the Interior Low Plateaus Province. The state is characterized with low to moderate topographic elevations, and slopes generally from the north southward to the Gulf of Mexico. The climate of the state is humid and subtropical with climatic variations influenced by the large land mass to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. Mean annual precipitation ranges from 50 inches in the north to 65 inches near the coast. Most rainfall occurs in the spring for the majority of the state; but on the coast, July, August and September often have more rainfall. Fall is the driest season statewide with streams and rivers generally reaching their lowest stage for the year during October. Temperatures in the state vary with latitude and in the winter average from 31°F in the north to 43°F on the coast. Summer temperatures throughout Mississippi average 90°F with frequent excursions above 100°F especially in the south.

Mississippi has a population in excess of 2,910,540 (US Census Bureau 2006 Projection) and covers a surface area of 47,689 square miles. The state is divided into ten major river basins with a total length of streams in excess of 82,000 miles. Of these miles, 32% are perennial characterized by flowing water throughout the year. Intermittent streams which flow during rainy seasons but are dry during summer months represent 65% of Mississippi's total stream mileage. There are over 2,400 miles of man-made ditches and canals in the state. The Mississippi River (approximately 400 miles) and the Pearl River (approximately 80 miles) form Mississippi's border with Arkansas and Louisiana on the west side of the state. The state is covered with hundreds of publicly owned lakes, reservoirs and ponds covering a combined area of approximately 260,000 acres. According to land use information, wetlands cover an estimated 2,728,000 acres with tidal marsh comprising approximately 53,000 acres of this total. The southern edge of Mississippi's contiguous land mass borders the Mississippi Sound with the coastline along the Mississippi Sound totaling approximately 84 miles. The total area of estuarine waters is approximately 758 square miles. This area includes the St. Louis Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi, Pascagoula Bay, Mississippi Sound, and the portion of the Gulf of Mexico that extends three miles south of the Barrier Islands.

August's Birthdays

William Cook -1
Louis Anderson -3
William Jefferson -4
James Palmer -4
James Edwards -5
Billy Dorsey -6
Douglas Buchanan -9
Ricky Hartness -9
Mary Sachs -9
Kenneth McNeese -10
Brandon Haley -11
Larry Boone -12
Judy Deare -12
Benjamin Jenkins -12
Thomas Gunn -13
Charles Belk -14
Lisa Harris -14
Randall Brooks -15
Johnny Hobson -15
Jeff Yelverton -16
Kenneth Berryman -17
Randy Catt -18
Nicholas Johnson -18
Paul Tadlock -18
Mandy Harrell -20
Grady Abel -21
James Parker -21
Kenneth Cline -22
Ronald Stafford -22
Nathan Thornton -22
Orlando Ellerby -23
Marvin Hogue -23
Dennis Dauterive -24
Collin Kent Strickland -24
Johnny Keys -24
Martin Little -25
Dustin Barnett -26
Charles Eidson -27
Scott Miles -27
John Stark -27
Daniel Crump -28
Marcus Gilbert -30
Travis Widener -30
Coley Bryant -31
Wesley Crum -31

Personnel Personals

- ☺ Adam Ogden, Telecommunicator, Stone County, Southeast District
- ☺ James Johnson, Forest Ranger, Stone County, Southeast District
- ☺ John Ogden, Emergency Telecommunicator, Lincoln County, Southwest District
- ☺ Nicholas Johnson, Forest Ranger, Pearl River County, Southeast District
- ☺ Brittney Ladner, Emergency Telecommunicator, Stone County, Southeast District

Moving On

- ☺ Demetric Williams, Forest Ranger, Southwest District
- ☺ Lee McCullough, Forest Ranger, Clark County, South Central District

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for July 2013 was the Blur Ash *(Fraxinus quadrangulata Michx)* Check out page 10 in the Mississippi Trees book.

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?

My leaves are bipinnately compound with leaflets of 5-9 leaves. My leave are 10.0" to 22.0" long while my leaflets are 1.0" to 2.0" long. Their margin are coarsely serrate to entire and lobed with an acuminate apex and cuneate base. My leaves are bright green above while a paler green below. Their surface and hair and glabrous.

My twigs are very stout and olive brown to brown in color. Their surface has numerous pale lenticles and 3-lobed large leaf scars.

My buds are small, globular and orangish cream color with a fuzzy surface.

My fruit is a drupe with green to yellow in color, thin flesh, single seeded and 0.75" in size.

My flower is monoecious, perfect with 5 purple petals and are 0.79" in size.

My bark is brown to reddish brown with a slightly crisscrossing furrows.

I form a single stem and reach 50' at maturely. I have a rapid grown rate and a moderate life span of greater than 50 years.

I am intolerant to shade, have a high tolerance to drought and not tolerance to fire.

I am found most often on disturbed soils. I can invade floodplain and marsh communities. I prefer a soil texture of fine to coarse with a soil pH of 4.0 to 8.0.

I am originally from the Himalayas and currently range in the southern U. S. from Virginia to California. I am found throughout Mississippi.

I am cultivated commercially for use in the manufacture of fiberboard. I am also used in cabinet work, for auto bodies, to build crates, musical instruments, matches, tool handles and fuel wood.

I was widely introduced as an ornamental shade tree because of my large compound leaves, distinctive cluster of lilac-colored flowers and my round yellow fruit. I am now considered primarily as an invasive pest species. I was revered for my beauty in my native range. I have been used for my insecticidal, anti-viral and possible anti-cancer properties. My shiny, hard seeds are used as beads and for rosaries. My extracts have pharmacological properties. In China, I am used to kill parasitic roundworms.

I am listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as a Category I species because I invade and disrupt natural communities. I am reported to be invasive and disruptive in 11 other states, including Hawaii and Texas. One of my seeds dispersed by a bird can cause a thicket formation.

All parts of me are poisonous. Eating a few as 6 berries can result in death. Bird (including mockingbirds, robins and catbirds) that eat too many of my seeds have been known to become paralyzed.

Who Am I?

MS Estuaries & Coastal Waters

Mississippi has approximately 84 miles of coastal shoreline between the Alabama/Louisiana state boundaries and 758 square miles of coastal waters including large estuaries, smaller bays and tidal rivers, creeks, and bayous. Inland or bay type estuaries include St. Louis Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi, and Pascagoula Bay.

The state's largest estuary (550 square miles) is the Mississippi Sound which extends from the southern edge of the state's contiguous land mass to the Gulf of Mexico and a chain of barrier islands (Cat, Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands) located approximately 11 miles offshore.

The state also classifies the Gulf of Mexico as an estuary within Mississippi waters to the state boundary located three miles south of the barrier islands.

Mississippi Lakes

Mississippi is covered with hundreds of publicly owned lakes, reservoirs, and ponds totaling approximately 260,000 acres.

The largest lakes in Mississippi are man-made reservoirs. Grenada Reservoir, Enid Reservoir, Sardis Reservoir and Arkabutla Reservoir in the Yazoo River Basin are used for flood control. The Ross Barnett Reservoir (Pearl River Basin) is used as a source of drinking water for the City of Jackson.

All of these large reservoirs support numerous other recreational activities. Pickwick Lake, in the state's northeast corner, is an impoundment of the Tennessee River and is shared with Alabama and Tennessee.

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution is by far the major source of pollution to Mississippi's lakes

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) , also known as polluted runoff, has an adverse impact on the State's water resources. Unlike pollutants from point sources that enter the environment from well-defined discharge points, pollutants from nonpoint sources find their way to surface and ground waters via rainwater runoff or percolation.

The polluted runoff can contain sediment, nutrients, bacteria, or toxic materials. Runoff from the seven major land-use categories listed below potentially impacts the State's water bodies. These categories consist of agriculture, forestry, mining, construction activities, urban runoff, hydrologic modifications, and land-disposal activities.

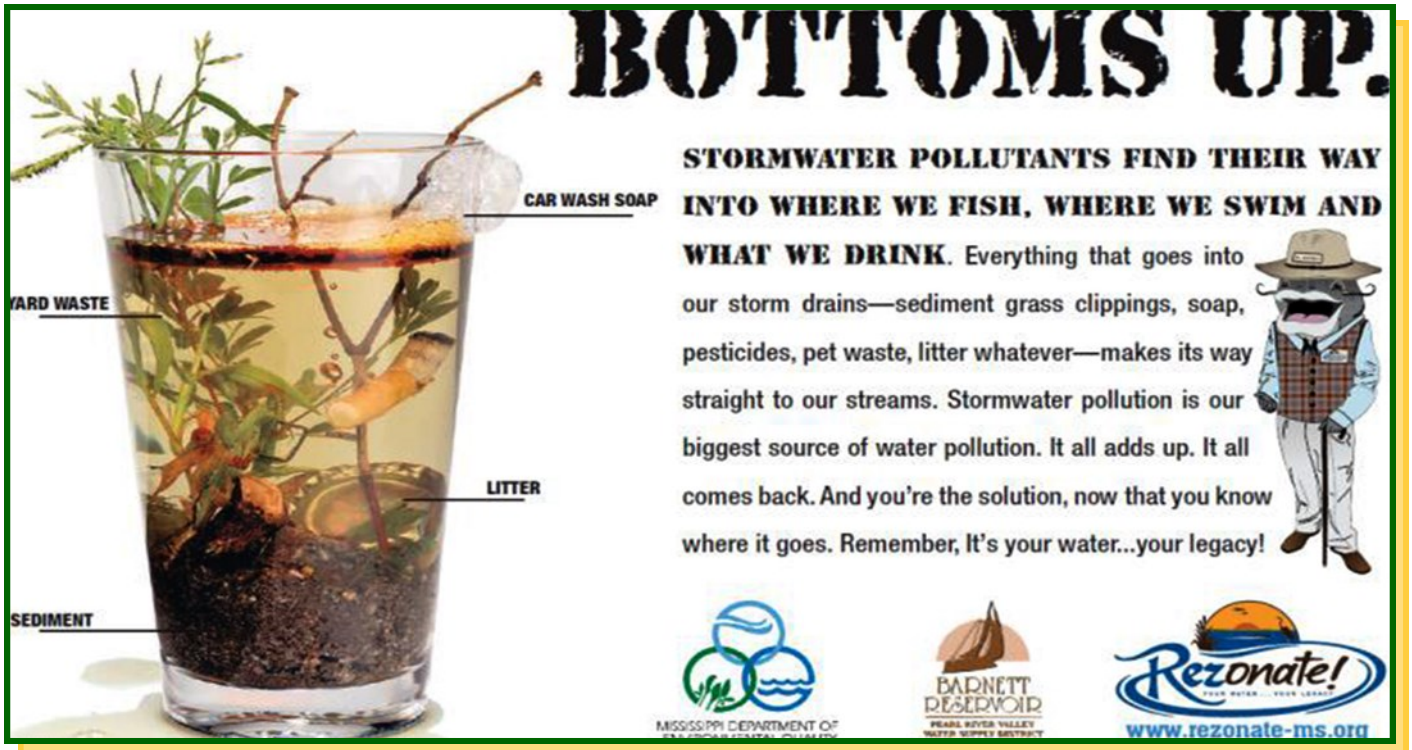
Nonpoint Source Pollution is difficult to control because it comes from a diverse number of activities including fertilizing lawns and farm fields, driving and maintaining our cars, constructing buildings and roads, plowing our fields for crops, and harvesting trees

MOVING ON UP

- ⇑ Mike Lee to District Forester of Southeast District.
- ⇑ Robert Scoggin to Interim District Forester of East Central District
- ⇑ Garron Hicks to Assistant District Forester of Northeast District
- ⇑ Bryan Wheeler to Assistant District Forester of Northeast District

Gone Fishin'

- ☺ Roosevelt Bell, Forest Ranger, Pike County, Southeast District
- ☺ William Whigham, Forest Ranger, Perry County, Southeast District
- ☺ Ora Cuevas, Forestry Technician, Hancock County, Southeast District
- ☺ Billy Powers, Forest Ranger, Alcorn County, Northeast District
- ☺ Marilyn Davis, Admin. Assistant, Lafayette County, Northeast District
- ☺ Richard Daugherty, Forest Ranger, Leake County, East Central District
- ☺ James McCulloch, Forester, Attala County, East Central District
- ☺ Russell Swords, Forester, Webster County, East Central District

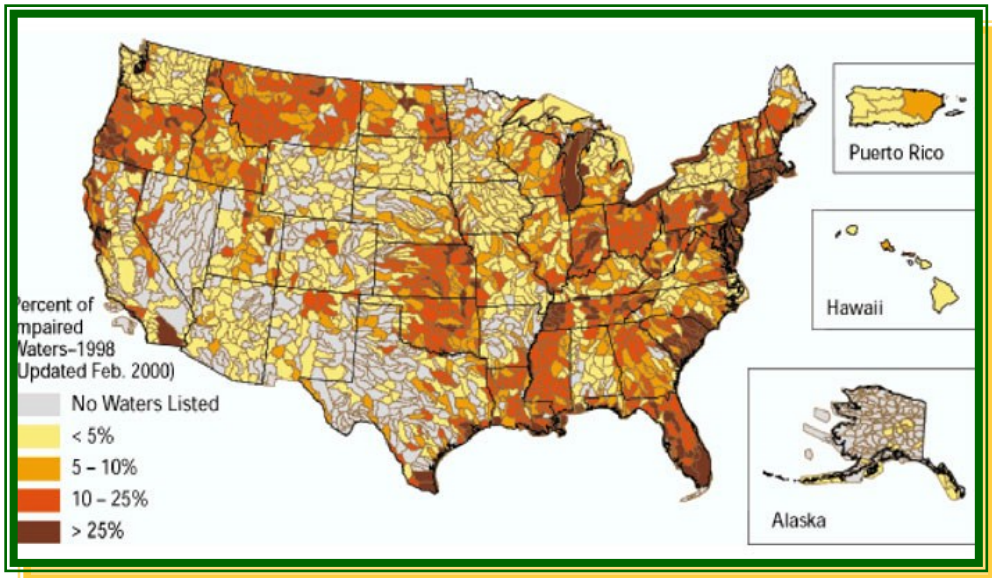


Impaired Water Bodies In The U.S.

More than 218 million Americans live within 10 miles of a river, lake, or estuary that is considered impaired because it cannot fully support its aquatic biological communities or other designated uses or conform to fishable/swimmable water-quality standards set by the States, Territories, or authorized Tribes. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), there are more than 20,000 impaired water bodies

Excess sediments (clean sediment), nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and pathogenic microorganisms are the leading causes of these impairments (USEPA, 2000).

"TMDL" stands for Total Maximum Daily Load, and refers to the total quantity (or load) of a pollutant that a stream can carry and still conform to designated uses and fishable/swimmable water quality. TMDL also refers to a regulatory process that States, Territories, and authorized Tribes use to determine allowable pollutant concentrations in streams.



Map of watersheds containing impaired water bodies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 1998 list of impaired water (USEPA, 2000).

Steps To Help Control NPS Pollution

Collect litter and animal waste before they wash into storm drains.

Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate when heavy rain isn't likely to wash it away.

Recycle grass clippings and leaves by mulching or composting. If you can't compost, collect and dispose of yard waste according to local provisions. **Do not put in storm drain.**

If you change your own oil, take the used oil to a recycling station. Check with your local service stations for such facilities. **Never** dump oil into a storm drain.

Home septic tanks should be located, constructed and installed according to regulations. Maintenance and prompt correction of problems are important.

Direct roof runoff onto a grassed area. Roof drains should not be connected to a sanitary or storm sewer system.

Watch for soil erosion around your home. Seed, install sod or plant ground cover to protect the site.

Use porous surfaces such as flagstone, gravel, stone, and interlocking pavers rather than concrete and asphalt.

If you're concerned about the effects of runoff leaving a nearby construction site, contact the local governing body responsible for erosion and sediment control in your area.

Be active! Join a civic or environmental group and participate in stream cleanup activities. Give talks, man booths, join the Adopt-A-Stream Program... spread the word.

You couldn't live long without clean water. Nothing can. Do your part to protect our waters.

Water Quality and Forestry

With 80 percent of the freshwater resources in the United States originating in forests, having healthy forests is critical to having clean water. The quality of water draining from forested watersheds is typically the highest in the country. Forests absorb rainfall, refill aquifers, slow and filter stormwater runoff, reduce floods, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

State forestry agencies are typically designated by Governors as the lead agency for the forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) program portion of state water quality management plans. These BMP programs focus on education of landowners, loggers and foresters about the threats to water quality and provide technical assistance on how to minimize those threats through the use of forestry BMPs.

Best Management Practices are the cornerstone of the forestry community's approach to protecting water resources during and after forest management activities such as harvesting, site preparation, planting, fertilizer application, pest management, road construction , and fire management. Most of these activities involve some degree of ground disturbance.

Aquatic conditions most likely to be impacted by forest treatments include water temperature, sediment and nutrient concentrations, stream channel stability, aquatic habitat quality, and toxic contamination. The purpose of forestry BMPs is to eliminate or mitigate these effects.

Although forest management ranks low among water-impairing land use activities in the South, impacts from forest management activities can be considerable if BMPs are not applied. BMPs include such measures as leaving a buffer zone of trees next to a stream, installing a culvert to cross a stream, or establishing grass on forest roads to prevent erosion.

While it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that water pollution does not occur from forestry operations, the professional resource manager and equipment operators working for a landowner also have an ethical responsibility to ensure that practices preformed do not cause pollution.

So how is Mississippi's forestry community doing in the protection of our water sheds? See page 8 for the answer to this question.

Water Quality & BMP's in MS

In 2010, the Mississippi Forestry Commission conducted a field survey of best management practices (BMPs) voluntarily implemented on forestland in Mississippi. The guidelines set forth in "Silvicultural Best Management Practices Implementation Monitoring: A Framework for State Forestry Agencies" was used to develop the 2010 BMP Implementation Survey for Mississippi.

A total of 237 sites in 80 counties located in 10 watersheds in Mississippi having recent silvicultural activity were randomly selected to evaluate the voluntary implementation of best management practices.

The following criteria were applied in selecting sites to be included in the survey:

- Forest harvesting activities occurring within 24 months.
- Sites must be at least 10 acres in size.
- Sites were selected without regard to ownership.

The 2010 BMP Implementation Survey results for Mississippi revealed that 93 percent of best management practices applicable to the survey sites were implemented in accordance with the guidelines published in the handbook Mississippi's BMP – Best Management Practices for Forestry in Mississippi.

For each site surveyed by a Commission forester 73 values were collected on each of the 8 BMP categories. The BMP categories are as follows:

- Streamside Management Zone (SMZ)
- Stream Crossings
- Permanent Roads
- Skid Trails/Temporary (Secondary) roads
- Site Preparation Activities
- Landings
- Wetlands
- Fireline Construction

The BMP categories Landings, Skid Trails/Temp Roads and Permanent Roads were applicable on more survey sites than other categories. The Landing category was applicable on 237 (100%) of the 237 sites. The Skid Trails/Temporary Road category was applicable on 237 (100%) and Permanent Roads on 217 (91.56%) of the survey sites. The Streamside Management Zones category was applicable on 164 (69.20%) of the 237 sites survey while Steam Crossing applied on 136 (57.38%) sites. The three remaining categories (Site Preparation, Wetlands and Fireline Construction) applied less frequently than any of the preceding categories. Site Preparation applied on 111 (46.84%) of the 237 survey sites, Wetlands applied on 102 (43.04%) and Fireline Constructions on 58 (24.47%) sites

Significant Risk to Water Quality

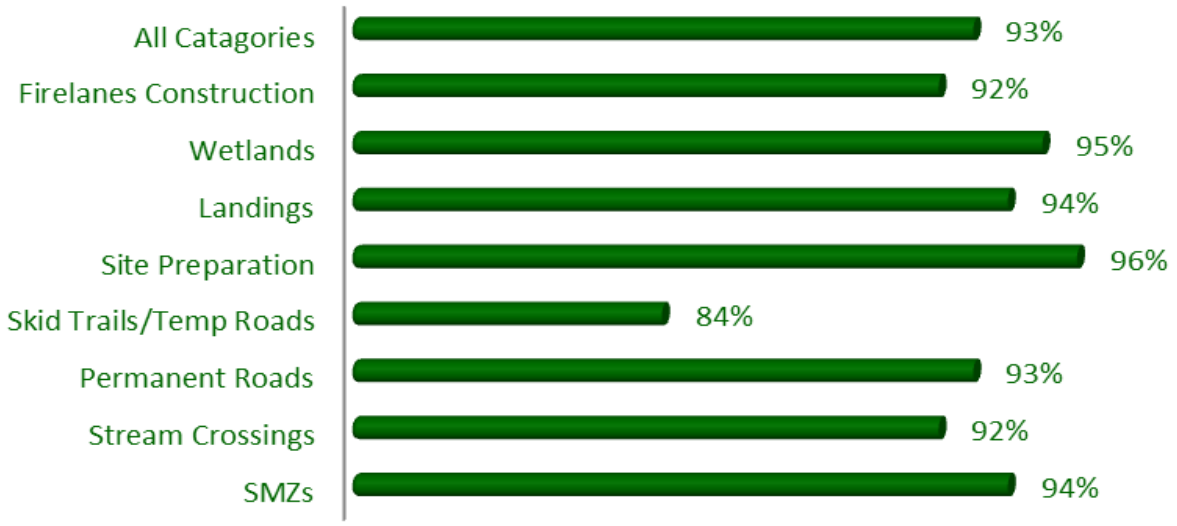
Sites were evaluated for a significant risk to water quality each time a best management practice was determined to be applicable to the survey site. Of the 7,800 applicable BMPs evaluated, a significant risk to water quality was observed 12 times. These occurred on 12 of the 237 site surveyed.

No significant risks to water quality were observed in relations to BMPs associated with Fireline Constructions. One significant risk for each category was observed in relations to BMPs associated with Stream Crossing, Landing and Wetlands. Two significant risks were observed in each of following Streamside Management Zone, Site Preparation and Permanent Road categories. The highest significant risk to water quality, with three risks was observed in the Skid Trails/Temporary Road category. The majority of these risks were associated with the *practices Skid Trail Grades (Steepness) below 15 percent*.

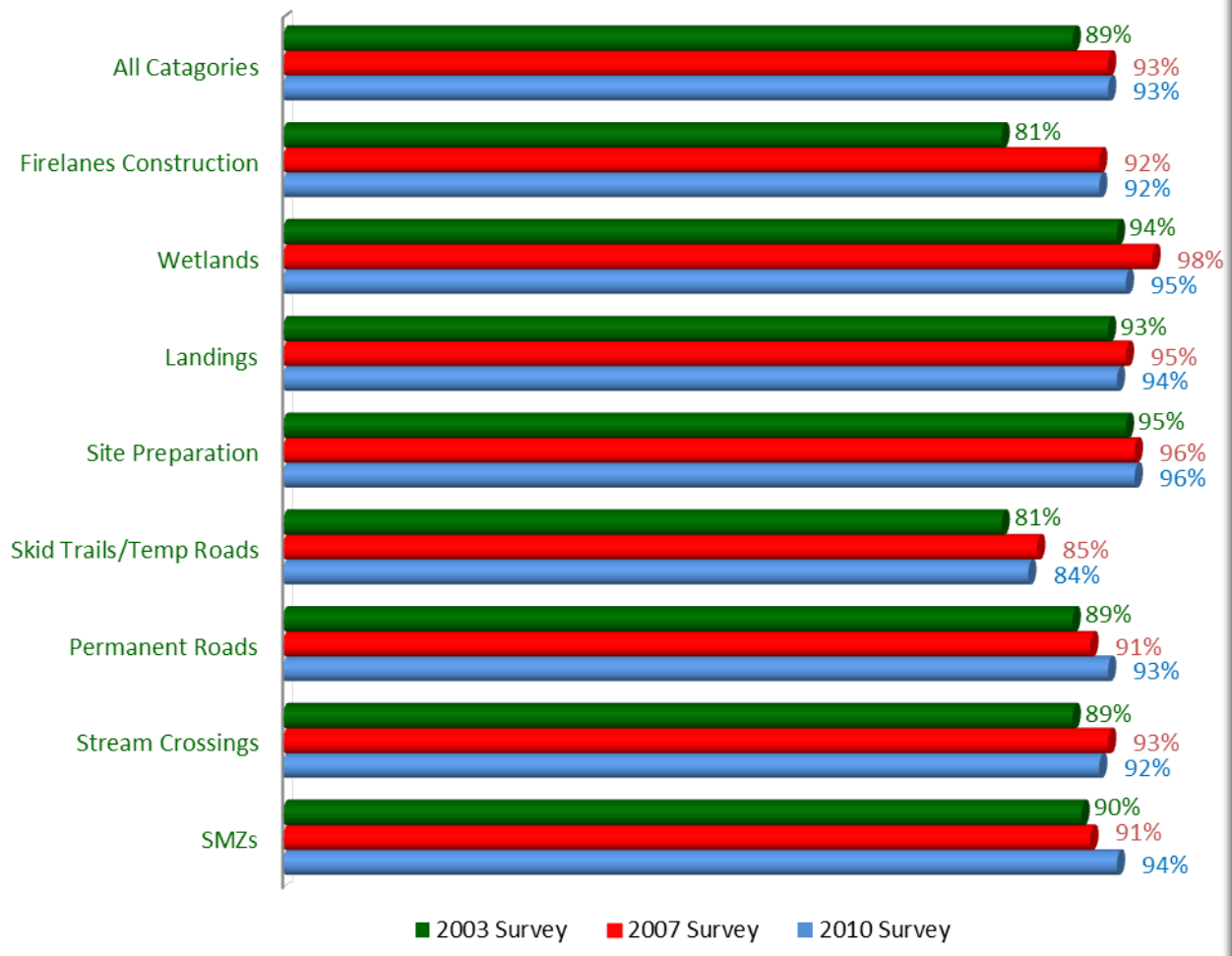
For more information on BMP's in Mississippi, please check out our Mississippi BMPs For Forestry Handbook and 2010 BMP Implementation Survey for Mississippi on our website at www.mfc.ms.gov/water-quality.php

Editor's Note: The 2010 survey is the latest BMP information for Mississippi.

2010 BMP Implementation Results



BMP EVALUATION COMPARISON 2003, 2007 & 2010



50th Annual "TCW"

By Meacham Harlow, Southern Outreach Officer

The 50th Annual South MS Teachers Conservation Workshop held in June 2013

Ellisville, MS - Last week, a group of 21 school teachers came together to attend the 50th Annual Teachers Conservation Workshop in South MS held at JCJC in Ellisville, MS. The workshop is sponsored by the MS Forestry Association. Volunteers from local agencies helped make this workshop a success. The teachers enjoyed hands on activities relating to forestry, forest products, and our natural resources. They took field trips to several local mills, plants, nurseries, national forests, and even our prestigious Lauren Rogers Museum of Art.

We would like to thank Mr. John Christian, a local Tree Farmer, Leaf River Cellulose, Southern Forest Products Inc, Molpus Timberlands, Bogue Homa Lake, Big Ten Water Park, Scotch Plywood, Shubuta Tree Nursery, Desoto National Forest Chickasawhay District, George Bassi with the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, and Jones County Junior College, for taking the time to welcome and cater to these teachers and for allowing us to visit, throughout this week long workshop.

The teachers enjoyed learning about the Desoto National Forest and the wildlife habitats of the gopher tortoise and the red cockaded woodpecker. In Desoto they also visited the new Tall Pines Discovery Trail which is a hike with endless adventure throughout the one or two mile marked trail. A great field trip idea for the teachers to consider for their students. The teachers were given the chance to watch a logging operation in progress on a 16th section timber harvest. The teachers learned how to do an actual timber cruise and they took measurements and made bids on a specific tract of timber. The closest bids were announced and the winners received a fabulous prize.

The week was packed full of fun activities, including those from the award winning nationally acclaimed Project Learning Tree. Natural Resource professionals gave presentations on subjects such as: forest soils, tree identification, wild turkeys, wildfire prevention, wildlife in MS, watersheds, water quality, water and forest ecology, sustainable forestry, and forest management, protection, and information.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

This workshop is held every summer in the North and in the South by a committee of volunteers from different agencies and it is sponsored and given by the MS Forestry Association. By attending this workshop teachers can receive up to 5 continuing education units or academic college credit.

Message From State Forester Morgan

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: **Lead Team and MFC Employees**

FROM: **Charlie Morgan, State Forester**

RE: **House Bill 2, Open Carry of a Weapon**

DATE: **July 1, 2013**

The legislature in its 2013 Regular Session passed House Bill 2 amending Section 97-37-1 of the Mississippi code. House Bill 2 addresses the carrying of dangerous weapons and more specifically defines the word "concealed" so as to allow the open carrying of certain weapons (specified knives, guns).

However, pursuant to controlling case law and direction from the Attorney General's office and the Department of Finance and Administration, state agencies have the authority and duty to manage their property in the public interest. In that context, if a MFC building or site involves "sensitive areas" the agency may prohibit the open carry of weapons thereon. Areas that are considered sensitive include, but are not limited to, such things as issuing rules and regulations that could potentially upset the public, engaging in law enforcement activities, conducting hearings involving the public or state employees, etc.

The MFC engages in some of these sensitive areas at each of its locations. Suppression costs are assessed in each of the counties where we have offices, FRDP may be approved or denied, arson investigations may be done in our various counties/districts, and employee disciplinary hearings may be held in each of our districts.

Therefore, it is our policy that the open carrying of weapons is prohibited at all of our MFC offices and/or work sites. As a reminder, Mississippi Personnel Board Policy Manual, Rule 9.1.A. Group Three Offenses, Number 10 still prohibits the "unauthorized possession or use of firearms, dangerous weapons or explosives" by state employees. In addition, pursuant to MFC Policy Manual Rule No. 178, the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a MFC vehicle is prohibited.

2013 MFA Annual Meeting

MFA Annual Meeting set for October 16 - 18 in Jackson

MFA Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Jamie Houston of Jackson, is planning an outstanding meeting in celebration of MFA's 75th Anniversary. Speakers committed to date include Fred Stimpson, Scotch-Gulf Lumber; E.J. "Buddy" Irby, Anderson Tully Worldwide; Rob Olszewski, Plum Creek; David Jones, Mississippi State University; and Danielle DiMartino Booth, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

In addition to sessions, activities include golf, sporting clays, and a tour of Forestry Suppliers and the King Edward Hotel. Please block out October 16 - 18, 2013 on your calendar and plan to be in Jackson for a meeting with other MFA members and guests.

Wildland fires are a serious threat to lives and property in the U.S. In the past decade, wildfires have burned over 59 million acres of land. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 2011 saw one of the worst fire seasons in decades, with close to 9 million acres burned. Decreasing fire risk in the WUI is a huge challenge, but NFPA's Wildland Fire Operations Division continues to work with organizations across the country and around the globe to raise awareness of wildfire and what communities can do to help lower their risk of damage.

Join NFPA in Salt Lake City for the 5th Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference, November 14 – 16, 2013. Share your knowledge, build relationships, explore key issues and learn about important wildfire mitigation tools and resources to help you and your community prepare for and adapt to living with wildfire.

This event brings together a diverse audience of leading wildfire experts, Firewise community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others, and offers attendees a chance to network with like-minded professionals and share best-practices that they can take back to their communities and workplaces.

Session education tracks at this event will include:

- Community Safety Approaches and Strategies
- Home Construction & Landscape Design
- Research (Physical, Social, Ecology and Environmental)
- Technology, Policy & Regulations
- Wildfire Planning, Suppression & Operations

For more information, including registration form, hotel room information, air and ground transportation, etc., click here.

Flowering Tree For Beautification

Ellisville is beginning a new tree planting project that includes planting cherry trees for their beauty and color. The right kind of cherry tree that is. The workshop is open to all citizens, property owners, students, business owners and others wanting to learn more about blooming trees in Mississippi and planting the right tree in the right place. Trees can create beautiful communities and protect and enhance the local environment, quality of life, and property values and provides many other benefits to citizens.

Continuing education credits are available for elected officials, arborist, foresters, LA, builders, engineers, parks and rec and others.

Hosted by: City of Ellisville and Ellisville Garden Club. When: August 6, 2013. Meeting Location: George V Harrison Multipurpose Building, 206 North Church Street, Ellisville, MS. This free seminar begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends around 4:00 p.m. To register, send you name and email to Donna Yowell at dyowell@aol.com.

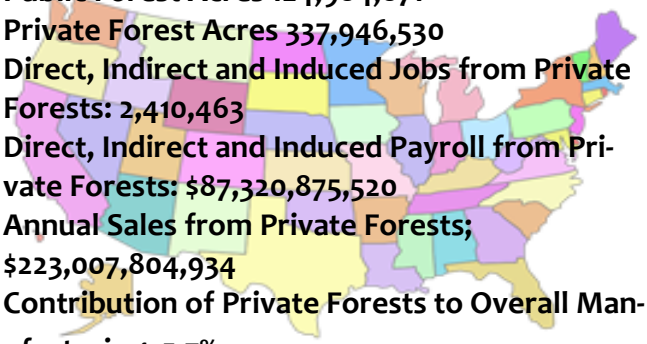
This seminar is funded in part by a Urban & Community Forestry Grant from the MS Forestry Commission, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the Southern Group of State Foresters.

Economic Impact Report

NAFO released The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests in the United States on June 27, 2013. The report is based on 2010, the most recent and complete data available.

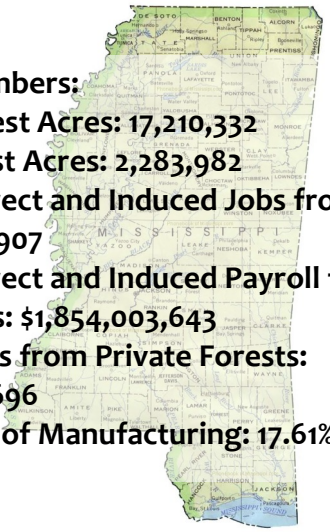
National Numbers:

- **Public Forest Acres 124,904,071**
- **Private Forest Acres 337,946,530**
- **Direct, Indirect and Induced Jobs from Private Forests: 2,410,463**
- **Direct, Indirect and Induced Payroll from Private Forests: $87,320,875,520**
- **Annual Sales from Private Forests; $223,007,804,934**
- **Contribution of Private Forests to Overall Manufacturing: 5.7%**



Mississippi Numbers:

- **Private Forest Acres: 17,210,332**
- **Public Forest Acres: 2,283,982**
- **Direct, Indirect and Induced Jobs from Private Forests: 56,907**
- **Direct, Indirect and Induced Payroll from Private Forests: $1,854,003,643**
- **Annual Sales from Private Forests: $7,560,278,696**
- **Percentage of Manufacturing: 17.61%**



Honoring Our Fallen

A sudden windstorm turned an Arizona forest fire into an out-of-control inferno that trapped and killed 19 firefighters, nearly all of them members of an elite crew of "hotshots," authorities said on Monday (July 1, 2013). It was the nation's biggest loss of firefighters in a wildfire in 80 years. The flames swept over the victims Sunday evening as they took cover in their foil-lined emergency shelters.

The fire killed 18 members of a hotshot crew based in nearby Prescott, plus a firefighter who was not part of the unit, Arizona Forestry Division spokesman Mike Reichling said. One member of the hotshot crew survived because he was moving the unit's truck when the flames roared over the men, Reichling said.

Mississippi Firewise

NFPA's Firewise Communities Program Tops 900th Community Mark

The Firewise Communities program recently reached a milestone and announced the 900th community to earn recognition as a Firewise Communities/USA® site! The city of Lakeway in Travis County, Texas is the latest neighborhood to take action to improve residents' safety from threats posed by brush, grass and forest fires.

According to Lakeway Firewise Committee President, Bob Kirmse, the Bastrop, Spicewood and Steiner Ranch fires spurred their decision to begin working on mitigation activities. Carrie Burns, a local forester and "Firewise sparkplug" for the community developed an action plan that included conducting a Firewise Day event where residents cleared brush and dead plant debris in Sailfish Park.

In addition to Lakeway, more than 160 new Firewise communities have been added in the past year nationwide. Find a complete list of Firewise recognized communities and their success stories on our website.

With 900 communities, we are well on our way to achieving our goal in the Firewise Challenge of 2013 to reach 1,000 safer places! Want to join the challenge? Find out more.

Safety First . . .

With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, drivers need to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk and bike to school. Whether you are taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, you can do your part to keep kids safe.

August is designated as Back-to-School Safety Month, and we want to remind motorists to be extra careful at all times. Follow the tips below to make sure you keep your children safe while walking and biking to school:

Back to School Safety Tips

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving.
- **Stop for School Buses Loading or Unloading Students.** Resist temptation to save a little time by driving around a school bus with its lights flashing red and stop sign extended. Doing so is unsafe and against the law. While laws vary by state, it's safe to assume you must stop behind a school bus with its lights flashing red and stop sign extended if you are in the same lane or an adjacent lane (either in the same direction or an opposite direction) or if the bus is at an intersection you're approaching. If you're on a road with three or more lanes and traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, you don't have to stop.
- **Come to a Complete Stop.** According to AAA, research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods.

School Zone Facts

- Accident statistics show that roughly 26 kids die every year in school bus accidents, are hurt while getting off the bus or hurt as passengers.
- Most young children are injured near their home or on their own street.
- Most crashes involving young children occur between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Most crashes involving young children occur in fair and warm weather.
- Twice as many young boys are injured as young girls

While driving in a school zone… watch out for the little ones.